



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

**BLM** news  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

BURNS DISTRICT 28910 HWY 20 WEST HINES, OR 97738 (541) 573-4400 [www.or.blm.gov/burns/](http://www.or.blm.gov/burns/)

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Contact:

Tara Wilson  
541.573.4400

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **STEENS MOUNTAIN ADVISORY COUNCIL TO MEET IN BURNS**

The next Steens Mountain Advisory Council (SMAC) meeting is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, January 23-24, 2003, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. The meeting will be held at the Burns District Office of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon.

On Thursday, the meeting will focus primarily on recreation within the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA). The committee will review Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) zone definitions and a draft LAC zone map, discuss wilderness monitoring, identify recreation issues and concerns outside of the Wilderness within the CMPA for the Andrews/Steens Resource Management Plan (RMP), and discuss management actions for those concerns. A brief presentation on prescribed fire from Burns District Fire Ecologist Jeff Rose will follow at the end of the session. On Friday, the SMAC will concentrate their efforts on transportation classification and maintenance procedures, Wilderness Study Area issues, and election of a new chair and vice-chair. As in all SMAC meetings, recommendation and action item reviews and designated Federal official and chairman updates will be included.

The public is welcome to attend all portions of the meeting, and may contribute during public comment sessions scheduled at 11:00 a.m. each day. Unless otherwise approved by the SMAC Chair, the public comment periods will last no longer than 30 minutes, and each speaker will address the SMAC for a maximum of 5 minutes. Information to be distributed to SMAC members should be sent to Rhonda Karges at the Burns District Office, 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738, no later than 10 days prior to the start of the meeting.

Pursuant to the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000, the SMAC was established to provide representative counsel and advice to the BLM regarding (1) new and unique approaches to management of the land within the boundary of the CMPA, (2) cooperative programs and incentives for landscape management that meet human needs and maintain and improve the ecological and economic integrity of the area, and (3) preparation and implementation of a management plan for the CMPA.

The SMAC members listed below represent the following categories of constituents:

Richard Benner - No Financial Interest  
Stacy Davies - Grazing Permittee  
Alice Elshoff - Environmental Representative-Local  
Michael Golden - Dispersed Recreation  
E. Ron Harding - Wild Horse Management  
Tom Harris, Chair - Mechanized or Consumptive Recreation  
Wanda Johnson - Burns Paiute Tribe  
Jason Miner - Fish and Recreational Fishing  
Jerry Sutherland, Vice Chair - Environmental Representative-State  
Hoyt Wilson - Grazing Permittee  
Cynthia Witzel - Recreation Permit Holder  
Harland Yriarte - Private Landowner  
Steve Purchase - State Government Liaison (nonvoting member)

The Designated Federal Official is Thomas Dyer, Burns District Manager.

**For further information on the SMAC or the upcoming meeting, contact Rhonda Karges at the Burns District Office at 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon, or call (541) 573-4400, weekdays, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. You may also check the Steens Web site at <http://www.or.blm.gov/Steens> for more information regarding the SMAC.**